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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Lesotho

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-first session from 19 to 30 January 2015. The review of Lesotho was held at the 6th meeting on 21 January 2015. The delegation of Lesotho was headed by Haae Phoofolo. At its 10th meeting held on 23 January 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Lesotho.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Lesotho: France, Ghana and Maldives.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Lesotho:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation prepared in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/LSO/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/LSO/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/LSO/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was transmitted to Lesotho through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation expressed its appreciation on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho for the opportunity to present the national report. The preparation of the national report was participatory and inclusive, and was deliberated on in an open and free atmosphere.

6. In June 2014, His Majesty, King Letsie III, had prorogued Parliament in order to pave the way for the political parties to solve their differences. Since then, tensions had arisen between the coalition partners in the Government and on 30 August 2014 there was an attempted coup. In response to the crisis, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held a Double Troika Summit of Heads of State and Government on 15 September 2014, which led to the Maseru Facilitation Declaration. Pursuant to the Declaration, Parliament was reconvened on 17 October 2014 and dissolved on 5 December 2014. Elections were set for 28 February 2015. Preparations for those elections by the Independent Electoral Commission had commenced.

7. The delegation recalled that, during the review in 2010, Lesotho had accepted 96 recommendations and rejected 22. A workplan was thereafter drawn up to ensure coherent implementation of the recommendations. The workplan was the product of a stakeholders' consensus and had served as a working tool for stakeholders.

8. Since the previous review, Lesotho had ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons From Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) on 6 December 2013. In 2011, the National Disability and Rehabilitation Policy had been adopted, following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2008.

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Protocol on Trafficking in Persons) had been incorporated into the national framework through the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, 2011. A National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2014–2016 had been officially launched in July 2014. The Children's Protection and Welfare Act, enacted in 2011 incorporated both the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child into the national framework.

9. In 2011, Lesotho had presented its report on the implementation of the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to the CEDAW Committee. The report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been submitted to the relevant Committee. Draft reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CAT), were awaiting Cabinet approval. Once approved, the reports would be submitted to the respective treaty monitoring bodies. The draft report on the International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was awaiting validation by stakeholders.

10. At the regional level, the report on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child had been submitted, while the report on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights was awaiting stakeholders' validation before submission to Cabinet for approval. That was a clear indication that, despite resource constraints, Lesotho was making great effort to report under the various treaties.

11. Plans to set up a Human Rights Commission were under way. In 2011, the 6th Amendment to the Constitution, enshrining the establishment of the Human Rights Commission, had been passed by Parliament. A Human Rights Commission Bill was in place and had been awarded a certificate of approval from the Attorney General's Chambers. The Bill had also been considered by Cabinet and would be presented before the 9th Parliament for promulgation into law. The Government would continue to strive towards the operationalization of the Commission. Workshops had been held for the media, members of Parliament, youth, inmates and correctional service staff on the work of the Commission envisaged.

12. Workshops had been held for persons with disabilities, teachers, members of Parliament and the judiciary for the purposes of highlighting human rights issues. To mark International Human Rights Day, the Minister had delivered a statement on the theme of the year. Gatherings to discuss various thematic areas of human rights had also been held for the general public.

13. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights had visited Lesotho on a promotional mission in 2012. The mission had comprised the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information and the Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Places of Detention in Africa. Their recommendations were presently being implemented by government.

14. Poverty was rife, with more than half of the population living below the poverty line. That was mainly to due to land degradation and climate change; particularly persistent drought, flooding and early frost which had caused low agricultural productivity in recent years. The worsening food deficit, as well as the increasing retrenchment of Basotho working abroad contributed to poverty.

15. To address the problem of agricultural decline, in the 2013–14 financial year, the Ministry of Agriculture had been allocated a 43 per cent increase in budget, which had enabled the subsidising of agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides. Poverty reduction programmes and policies had been designed, such as the

National Strategic Development Plan, which served as an implementation strategy for the National Vision 2020 for the following five years. The Plan was expected to reduce poverty and promote the achievement of sustainable development.

16. Lesotho was on track to achieving the Millennium Development Goals relating to primary education, gender equality and empowerment of women. Efforts would be redoubled in order to achieve the remaining Goals in the post-2015 period. Lesotho would mobilize more development partners and exert decisive leadership to attain the National Vision 2020 as the Goals bore a close relationship to the seven pillars of the National Vision 2020.

17. With regard to education, free learning materials were provided, qualified teachers were employed and new schools, accessible to persons with disabilities, were being constructed in remote and rural areas. Additional classrooms in existing schools had also been built. There had been a sharp increase in the number of literate women and the school enrolment and completion rates were higher for girls than boys.

18. HIV and AIDS had had a devastating impact on the population and health-care system. Various efforts had been undertaken, including awareness campaigns, testing and treatment, male circumcision and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), whereby all HIV-infected pregnant women enrolled for PMTCT services were eligible to receive lifelong antiretroviral therapy. There was also a current national HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan.

19. Infant and child mortality had risen in recent years as a result of pneumonia, malnutrition, measles, HIV and AIDS, and diarrhoea. In addition to the subsidized fees and free maternal and health services at health centres, other government interventions included the integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses Strategy, PMTCT programmes, and policies such as the National Health Sector Policy with its Strategic Plan and the Young Child Feeding Policy. Services for women and children had also improved. More than 600 village women had been trained and employed to visit pregnant women regularly and to encourage them to visit health centres.

20. There had been an increase in human trafficking, whereby women and children fell prey to fictitious promises of employment and other means of earning a living. The Government had taken steps to ensure the protection of those vulnerable groups through the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, 2011, implemented through the National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2014–16. The Ministry of Home Affairs had spearheaded a multisectoral team on anti-trafficking and there were partnerships with civil society organizations and community networks to address human trafficking through intensive community awareness-raising campaigns.

21. Lesotho was dedicated to achieving the principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and promotion of women's rights, as illustrated by the appointment of women to high decision-making positions, such as that of the Ombudsman and the Chief Justice, and the adoption of a national action plan to end gender-based violence against women. Capacity-building training sessions on gender issues and gender-based violence had been held for the police, judges, magistrates, prosecutors, chiefs, and traditional and religious leaders.

22. The best interests of the child remained at the core of the Government's agenda. The Children's Protection and Welfare Act 2011 provided for the right to education, health and opinion for all children, and protected children against exploitation and child labour. It also made provision for a Children's Court, which was now operational. Within the Ministry of Social Development, there was a department of children's services tasked with the care, protection and development of children.

23. On the issue of corruption, the Directorate of Corruption and Economic Offences had been established and a National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan had been designed. There was also the Prevention of Corruption Bill 2013, which sought to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework and elevate the status of the Directorate to that of a Commission.

24. Old correctional facilities were being demolished and new ones built. A full-time HIV and AIDS coordinator had been employed and HIV testing, counselling and treatment were provided. Condoms were being provided and all correctional facilities had a nurse and dispensary to attend to minor illnesses. All inmates received free medical care in government hospitals.

25. In response to advance questions, the delegation stated that the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, 2011, had curbed child labour. Labour Inspectors could now inspect the formal sector to ascertain the existence of child labour and investigate crimes relating to the worst forms of child labour. However, there were no available statistics on reported labour cases in the Children's Court. A programme on the elimination of child labour involving various stakeholders was currently being developed.

26. Awareness-raising and educational campaigns on gender-based violence continued to be run in an effort to prevent and combat domestic violence. There was a support programme for victims, which included counselling. The 6th Amendment to the Constitution Act of 2011 enhanced the support available to victims. Alleged perpetrators were prosecuted. The Domestic Violence Bill had been referred back for further consultations and research and , with new drafting instructions as a result.

27. The reservation to article 2 of CEDAW was partially withdrawn in 2004, and the reservations remained only with regard to succession to the throne and to chieftainship. An elected government had to be considerate to the traditional values of the society that formed its electorate.

28. Lesotho retained the death penalty under Statutory Law as a form of deterrence. However, the death penalty had not been carried out since 1995. There were appropriate safeguards in place, such as the Pardons Committee and the prerogative of mercy by His Majesty the King. Nonetheless, the Government took note of the international trend towards abolition of the death penalty.

29. With regard to the administration of justice, reforms had been undertaken to mitigate the backlog of cases and to modernize the operations of the judiciary, including the introduction of a case management tool in the High Court and the establishment of a small claims procedure in the magistrate court.

30. The Government was continuing to renovate and refurbish correctional facilities throughout the 10 districts, notwithstanding budget limitations. The use of restorative justice and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms had been scaled up and the courts also imposed non-custodial sentences, including community service sentences, to reduce the overcrowding in correctional facilities.

31. Lesotho was committed to preventing illicit trafficking of conventional arms. The International Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons had been ratified and the Arms Trade Treaty had been signed. The Internal Security (Arms and Ammunition) Act of 1966 prohibited the possession, sale or transfer of a firearm and/or ammunition without a licence. The Counter Crime Unit had been established in March 2009 and tasked with searching for unlicensed firearms and arresting alleged perpetrators.

32. It was the ambition of Lesotho to expeditiously adopt the best human rights practices. The pace at which that ambition would be fulfilled would be determined by the

availability of resources and capacity, as well society's receptiveness to those human rights practices.

33. Lesotho appreciated the technical and financial support as well as the good cooperation from several United Nations agencies and countries. The delegation also expressed appreciation for the cooperation in the preparation of the National Report and for the advance questions received, and looked forward to a constructive dialogue.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

34. During the interactive dialogue, 64 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

35. The Democratic Republic of the Congo commended the progress by Lesotho and willingness to improve human rights, despite challenges. It noted the Strategic National Development Plan aimed at reducing poverty, free education, and measures to combat corruption and promote the rights of women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities. It welcomed international cooperation with Lesotho.

36. Denmark noted permission granted to allow bodies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit and inspect correctional institutions and make recommendations, but noted that it had not taken steps towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (OP–CAT). It also referred to an initiative by the Committee against Torture which aimed to assist governments to overcome obstacles to ratification and implementation of the Convention, as an avenue to assist Lesotho.

37. Djibouti appreciated the efforts by Lesotho to comply with previous recommendations, despite challenges. It congratulated Lesotho on the adoption of the Law for the protection and well-being of children and persons with disabilities. It called on the international community to provide technical assistance to Lesotho.

38. Egypt noted the approach taken by Lesotho regarding the promotion of human rights in the country and significant steps taken to establish the Children's Court; to enact the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (2011), the Children's Protection and Welfare Act (2011), and the Education Act (2010), providing for free and compulsory primary education.

39. Ethiopia noted the achievements of Lesotho in the areas of peace and political stability, gender equality, dispensation of justice, registration of a high literacy rate, human resource development, and increased coverage of public service provision. It noted with appreciation the emphasis on alleviating poverty, ensuring food security and reducing unemployment.

40. France commended progress on stabilizing Lesotho after the political crisis of 2014 and expressed its wish that the general elections of 2015 would take place in line with democratic rules and human rights. It congratulated Lesotho on its ratification of ICPPED.

41. Gabon noted the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, the adoption of a law on child welfare, and the adoption of measures for orphans, children and other vulnerable populations to guarantee their rights to education and health.

42. Germany welcomed the progress made in the fields of child protection, elimination of discrimination against women and political participation of women since the previous universal periodic review. It remained concerned about the continued high prevalence of violence against women and issues of discrimination and non-equality, as well as child sexual abuse, forced child/early marriage, and child labour.

43. Ghana commended the establishment of a national human rights commission and hoped that it would operate in full compliance with the Paris Principles. It also commended the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, and shared concerns expressed by CEDAW about the high incidence of trafficking in women and girls.

44. Indonesia noted that Lesotho was on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on universal primary education and promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. It expressed its appreciation of the draft national policy on social development and hoped that it would be approved and implemented immediately. It further noted that corruption remained one of the prevalent factors hindering development.

45. Ireland congratulated Lesotho for the progress achieved towards gender equality, but remained concerned at the level of discrimination that women still encountered in the public and private spheres. It welcomed efforts to tackle the high rates of infant and maternal mortality and noted in particular that child mortality rates remained alarmingly high.

46. Italy commended the holding of a de facto moratorium on the death penalty, welcomed the enactment of the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act of 2006, and commended the adoption of a number of policies to enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of the child.

47. Kuwait appreciated efforts to enhance the normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights. It also valued the procedural steps towards the implementation of the accepted recommendations of the first review, aimed at additional achievements towards the protection of human rights and freedoms.

48. Latvia congratulated Lesotho for the various laws, action plans and campaigns to protect and enhance women's rights. It welcomed the adoption of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, 2011, and the national strategic plan on vulnerable children. Latvia recognized efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal target for universal primary education, but remained concerned that the lack of birth registration resulted in the denial of essential services.

49. Libya noted the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights. It commended the ratification of a number of treaties, including CED, CRPD and the Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

50. Mali noted the ratification of several international human rights instruments and the compliance of national laws with international commitments. It also welcomed action to better protect the rights of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, and positive initiatives to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

51. Mauritius commended the implementation of most of the recommendations and the development of various action plans since the previous review. It encouraged Lesotho to pursue the development of its National Human Rights Policy. It welcomed the initiatives to establish a Human Rights Commission and suggested that Lesotho consider availing itself of the experiences of Mauritius.

52. Mexico took note of the ratification of ICPPED, the adoption of the Action Plan against human trafficking and the implementation of the Law for the protection and well-being of children. While acknowledging progress and challenges, Mexico raised a concern about overdue reports to treaty bodies. Mexico made its best practices available.

53. Montenegro requested information on the activities undertaken to make the national human rights commission operational, the reasons for the lack of cooperation with treaty

bodies, and activities undertaken to incorporate CEDAW into the domestic legal system. It welcomed the ratification of ICPPED.

54. Morocco welcomed the ratification of ICPPED and the launch of the action plan against trafficking in persons. It commended Lesotho for its efforts in the area of education. Morocco encouraged consolidation of efforts in the areas of judicial reform and the fight against corruption.

55. Mozambique commended Lesotho for adopting the National Disability and Rehabilitation Policy in 2011. It noted that Lesotho was on track to achieve the goals on universal primary education and gender equality and women's empowerment. It welcomed the National Identity Cards Act of 2011, which gave women the right to apply for an identity card without their husband's authorization.

56. Namibia commended Lesotho on efforts made to implement the recommendations, from the first review, despite several challenges. It appreciated the passing of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, 2011, which was aimed at the enhancement, promotion, protection and realization of the rights and welfare of children. Namibia commended the continued progress made to reduce poverty, particularly though social grants to the elderly and orphans and vulnerable children.

57. The Netherlands commended Lesotho for the enactment of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, 2011 and appreciated the efforts taken to protect children in vulnerable circumstances. It remained concerned about domestic violence against women and violence committed by an intimate partner, as well as the absence of a specific prohibition of discrimination against women in domestic law.

58. New Zealand welcomed the efforts to ensure free and fair elections in February 2015 and was pleased to work with Lesotho and to share experiences in that regard. It commended progress regarding representation of women in the political sphere and welcomed the commitment to greater transparency and accountability through the fight against corruption.

59. The Niger commended progress since the first review on, inter alia, the creation of the National Human Rights Commission, the adoption of laws for the protection and well-being of children and to combat human trafficking, and the implementation of a National Action Plan to combat violence against women. It encouraged Lesotho to reach the objectives of its National Strategic Development Plan.

60. The Philippines lauded the progress made by Lesotho despite the resource and capacity constraints, most notably the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, 2011. It recognized the need for stronger partnerships to further strengthen the implementation of policies, particularly in the realization of socio-economic rights.

61. Portugal noted that Lesotho had one of the highest literacy rates in sub-Saharan Africa, and that the country was on track to achieving Millennium Development Goal 2 concerning primary education. Portugal was concerned about the disadvantaged situation of girls in accessing education, as well as reports on sexual violence and abuses committed in schools.

62. The Russian Federation took positive note of the implementation of international legal instruments. It commended Lesotho for the adoption of national legislation aimed at improving the human rights situation.

63. Rwanda congratulated Lesotho for initiatives aimed at addressing poverty reduction and ensuring economic development, commended the establishment of a National Strategic Development Plan, the improvement of the water supply and sanitation, and the

domestication of the Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, and urged the international community to provide technical assistance and capacity-building, in, amongst areas, the setting up the National Human Rights Commission.

64. Senegal congratulated Lesotho for several initiatives to promote human rights, notably the adoption of the Law for the protection and well-being of children, and the design of a national policy on persons with disabilities and of an action plan against human trafficking. It called on the international community to provide technical assistance to Lesotho.

65. Sierra Leone commended the children's court, special measures on political participation of women, progress in providing free, gender-balanced education and ongoing efforts aimed at reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, and noted that a sustainable natural disaster risk reduction strategy was crucial for economic development. It was also concerned about capacity gaps in the health sectors and encouraged international support for the development of a sound health system as well as legislation prohibiting discrimination against women.

66. Singapore noted the emphasis on raising socio-economic standards and took positive note of the National Strategic Development Plan. It further noted the efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, including through, prevention, care and treatment; as well as to improve service delivery by rolling out services and resources in rural areas.

67. Slovenia welcomed the Children's Protection and Welfare Act and the increase in the age of criminal responsibility, improved water supply and sanitation, high levels of investment in education, measures taken to combat the spread of HIV, the National Action Plan to end Gender Based Violence, and measures to promote gender equality. It was concerned at discriminatory practices entrenched in customs, beliefs and traditions.

68. South Africa commended the signature and ratification of most of the international and regional human rights instruments. It reaffirmed its continued support of SADC efforts in the promotion of peace and security and encouraged the continuation of all efforts towards the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights, including the right to development.

69. The delegation stated that there were plans to resuscitate the National AIDS Commission. There was a Government policy paper on the protection of children in rural areas, especially herd boys, which included ensuring that they received an education. Allegations of excessive use of force by the security forces, over the previous few months, were being investigated with the assistance of SADC. On completion of the investigation, the perpetrators would be accountable under the law.

70. The delegation recalled its earlier comments with regard to the establishment of a national human rights institution and emphasized that the relevant bill would be before the 9th Parliament for promulgation into law. On the issue of the death penalty, the delegation reiterated that the death penalty had not been carried out since 1995.

71. With regard to the reservation to article 2 of CEDAW, the delegation stated that Lesotho was moving step by step towards lifting the reservation. The delegation explained that Lesotho was bound by her traditions, which were what developed a nation. To take people away from those traditions was not easy and involved much dialogue, in, which the Government was engaged, especially on the issue of chieftainship of women. Discussions were taking place with the objective of reviewing the Constitution and relevant law.

72. On the matter of corruption, active measures had been taken by the Government to strengthen the anti-corruption institution. High-profile figures were being brought to justice to show the seriousness of government in stopping corruption. The delegation stated that the Government was working hard to reduce infant and maternal mortality and provided

information on the village health workers programme in that regard. With regard to persons with disabilities, the delegation informed the Working Group of the policy that was in place to protect the rights of such persons, which would eventually be approved by an act of Parliament.

73. The delegation stated that no lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons had been prosecuted and emphasized that the matter was sensitive in the culture and society in Lesotho. The Government was engaged in dialogue on the issue with a view to reaching consensus.

74. A disaster risk management programme was in place, under which there was a health and nutrition committee, comprising various stakeholders, including government ministries, development partners and non-governmental organizations. There were also district and village disaster management teams.

75. Steps had been taken to reduce poverty through employment. A job summit had been held in August 2014, with the aim of adopting a working programme on the development of agriculture, tourism and other means of creating employment. The Government was committed to creating about 10,000 jobs per year.

76. Spain congratulated Lesotho on progress made, with the legalization in 2012 of homosexual relations. It noted the need to depoliticize public services and the armed forces, and to create institutions to safeguard human rights.

77. The Sudan commended Lesotho for its adoption of legislation and policy on human rights, particularly the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the Communication Act, as well as for the adoption of the National Strategic Development Plan 2013–2016, the National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2014–2016 and the National Action Plan on Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS.

78. Sweden noted the political stalemate in Parliament and the resolving of Parliament. It noted the attempted coup d'état, the involvement of SADC and the Maseru Facilitation Declaration, which stipulated that elections should take in February 2015. Sweden also noted the Maseru Security Accord.

79. Thailand congratulated Lesotho for ratifying ICPPED and for its engagement with international organizations and stakeholders to protect human rights. It welcomed the transformation of the Department of Social Welfare into the Ministry of Social Development, with a focus on protecting vulnerable groups. It encouraged Lesotho to continue working towards achieving universal primary education. It expressed concern about the HIV epidemic and encouraged Lesotho to redouble its efforts to prevent the spread of HIV infections.

80. Timor Leste noted the positive steps taken to promote and protect human rights. It highlighted the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, the Children's Protection and Welfare Act and the adoption of the Education Act, providing for free and compulsory primary education. It commended the implementation of the Child Grants Programme, leading to an increase in school enrolment rates and a decrease in child labour.

81. Togo commended initiatives by Lesotho to reduce poverty, ensure economic development and provide free access to health care. It encouraged Lesotho to put the National Human Rights Commission in place.

82. Trinidad and Tobago highlighted the advancement in human rights. It noted that Lesotho was plagued with domestic challenges, including poverty and food security, climate change and a high rate of HIV/AIDS. The geographical terrain of Lesotho was also a barrier to providing essential goods and services.

83. Tunisia noted the ratification of ICPPED and the drafting of a national human rights policy. It encouraged ratification of OP-CAT and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education, as well as the incorporation of CEDAW provisions into national legislation with a view to withdrawing the reservation to article 2. Finally, it urged OHCHR and the international community to respond favourably to requests for technical assistance.

84. Turkey noted human rights progress since the first review, notably the ratification of international conventions, the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission, measures to combat human trafficking and the creation of a conducive climate for the 2015 elections. Despite progress concerning gender equality, gender-based violence was a concern.

85. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged Lesotho to respect freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in the pre-election period and to enact legislation abolishing the death penalty. It recognized progress made on improving the status of women, but noted concerns about restrictions on women's rights under customary law.

86. The United States of America noted the commitment of Lesotho to dialogue on constitutional and parliamentary reform and looked forward to a free, fair and peaceful election. It remained concerned about human trafficking and child labour, as well as the high rate of HIV infections and urged Lesotho to ensure that treatment was provided in a non-discriminatory manner.

87. Uruguay valued the ICPPED ratification and the adoption of the Strategic National Framework to combat human trafficking and its Action Plan 2014–2016. It encouraged Lesotho to implement recommendations issued by the African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples' Rights in 2012.

88. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was pleased that Lesotho had adopted, in 2011, the National Policy on Disabilities, created the National Human Rights Commission and put in place the Strategic National Development Plan.

89. Zimbabwe noted that Lesotho had prioritized the raising of human rights awareness for law enforcement agencies and the promulgation of the National Decentralization Policy, and that Lesotho was on track to achieving the Millennium Development Goals on universal primary education, gender equality and women's empowerment. Lesotho had ratified ICPPED and domesticated the Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

90. Yemen noted the legislative measures taken in the context of the obligations of Lesotho under human rights treaties, such as the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2011. It also noted the adoption of a National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2014–2016, the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, 2011 and the National Strategic Development Plan.

91. Algeria noted the efforts by Lesotho to implement previous recommendations, despite financial constraints, namely the adoption in 2011 of laws for the protection and well-being of children and to combat human trafficking; and initiatives to reduce poverty and improve education and health care. It made recommendations.

92. Angola noted the ratification of CRPD and the adoption of a national policy in relation to the Convention as well as legislative measures to reinforce national mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. It also congratulated Lesotho on the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission.

93. Argentina congratulated Lesotho on progress made since the previous review and commended, in particular, the ratification of ICPPED , the adoption of the Law for the

protection and well-being of children and of the Law on Education, and the National Program on Disability.

94. Australia expressed concern that poverty, HIV/AIDS and food insecurity continued to present significant obstacles to the enjoyment of human rights in Lesotho and welcomed the adoption of the National Strategic Development Plan. It welcomed the planned legislation to establish a human rights commission. Australia expressed concerns about the death penalty and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

95. Benin welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations. It commended Lesotho for ratifying ICPPED. It also commended Lesotho for strengthening the judicial system, promoting gender equality, and for developments in the areas of health and education.

96. Botswana noted the enactment of laws on trafficking in persons and the protection of children, as well as the measures taken in relation to gender equality, poverty alleviation, and gender-based violence. It noted the efforts made to address the political and constitutional challenges. Children under the age of 15 years were engaged in domestic service, street vending and in agriculture. It also noted challenges in providing adequate health-care facilities and services.

97. Brazil was pleased at developments in Lesotho in the field of freedom of expression and the promotion of the rights of women, children and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, as well as at the creation of the Ombudsman's Office. It noted however that there was still room for improvement.

98. Canada welcomed the commitment to promote and protect human rights and encouraged Lesotho to continue to follow up on legislative steps taken to establish a human rights commission in line with the Paris Principles, as that would be an important tool to protect and promote the human rights of all persons, including the rights of women and children.

99. The Central African Republic encouraged Lesotho to ratify CAT and to guarantee the physical integrity of its citizens. It noted that, despite the difficulties, Lesotho had ratified ICPPED, had introduced policy promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, and had adopted a law on the protection of the rights of the child in conformity with international instruments.

100. Chile took note of efforts by Lesotho to protect human rights, strengthen its institutional structure and to enact legal frameworks, despite challenges.

101. China noted progress in promoting gender equality, the empowerment of women, combating the trafficking of women and children, and sexual violence. It noticed difficulties in agriculture, job creation and public health. It highlighted difficulties in the prevention and treatment of AIDS and called on the international community to give more assistance.

102. The Congo welcomed ratification of ICPPED and the adoption of laws to combat trafficking in persons and to promote human rights. It encouraged Lesotho to redouble its efforts to overcome economic and social challenges and to strengthen cooperation with Human Rights Council mechanisms.

103. Costa Rica took note of measures to implement previous recommendations. It welcomed progress to protect human rights, strengthen the judicial system, combat human trafficking and promote the rights of persons with disabilities and children through the adoption of Law for the protection and well-being of children.

104. Cuba commended the interest of Lesotho in promoting inclusive economic growth and its commitment to free education through the Education Law of 2010. It took note of

the high rate of HIV/AIDS and the vulnerability of Lesotho to the global financial crisis. It called on the international community to provide technical assistance.

105. Kenya took note of the challenges in addressing gender inequality and the trafficking of persons. It welcomed efforts to domesticate core human rights instruments and noted the commitment to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms. Kenya encouraged the continuation of measures to address human trafficking.

106. The delegation stated that the Government had taken a stand in relation to the de-politicization of the public service. For instance, with the upcoming elections, all public officers who demonstrated an intention of becoming politicians were instructed to resign from the public service.

107. Primary education was free, an initiative also being extended to secondary schools. Bursaries were offered to students at the tertiary level. Herd boys were receiving an alternative primary education, with some links to formal education.

108. The delegation acknowledged that reports to some Committees were overdue and stated that that was largely due to the lack of capacity and resource constraints. Lesotho would do its best to comply with its reporting obligations. The law on defamation served as a deterrent and people were very rarely charged under it.

109. The Government had continued to implement the gender policy framework and empower women to contribute to development and poverty reduction. Several social protection plans for persons with disabilities, children who had been orphaned and vulnerable children had also been introduced, with the primary goal of preventing and reducing economic and social vulnerability. Child labour was predominant in the private sector. The Labour Code of 1992 was under review to provide labour inspectors with the authority to review child labour practices in the informal sector. An action plan to eliminate child labour was being developed.

110. With regard to environmental degradation, measures had been taken to prevent soil erosion through water deviation furrows and contour ploughing. The delegation stated that the Maseru Facilitation Declaration and the Maseru Security Accord would be fully implemented and that regular visits by the SADC facilitator would take place to ensure this.

111. The delegations stated that Lesotho would agree to issue a standing invitation to all the Human Rights Council mechanisms; birth registration was free of charge through public gatherings; primary health care services to women and girls were provided for a subsidized fee in all government hospitals and clinics; and clinics for the health care of women and girls were available in all 10 districts.

112. On behalf of Lesotho, the delegation extended its deepest appreciation and thanked all delegations for the questions, comments, recommendations and above all their constructive manner of engagement. Cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms was an issue of high priority on the agenda of the Government. The UPR had been a worthwhile process. It allowed for reflection on priorities and needs and provided for the systematic creation of an enabling environment to enhance the realization of human rights. The delegation affirmed the commitment of the Government to uphold the human rights of all Basotho.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

113. **The following recommendations enjoy the support of Lesotho:**

113.1. **Take the necessary steps to accede or ratify the core international human rights instruments that they are not yet acceded to (Kuwait);**

113.2. **Include in the Constitution and other legislation provisions prohibiting discrimination against women in matters such as adoption, marriage, divorce, devolution of property, burial and death (Canada);**

113.3. **Incorporate in Lesotho's domestic legislation provisions of international legal instruments already ratified (Senegal);**

113.4. **Incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women in its domestic law (Netherlands);**

113.5. **Incorporate the principle of gender equality in its domestic law and prohibit by law discrimination on the grounds of gender and domestic violence (Costa Rica);**

113.6. **Continue to align its national laws, specially the sub-constitutional legislation and customary legal practices, with its international human rights obligations, particularly in the field of gender equality and prevention of violence against women, where special programmes and policies would be highly welcomed (Brazil);**

113.7. **Prioritize the adoption and enactment of the Domestic Violence Bill and put in place further comprehensive measures to prevent and address gender-based violence, including the establishment of institutions for victim support (Germany);**

113.8. **Enact the Domestic Violence Bill into law, ensuring that future cases of domestic violence are dealt with decisively (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

113.9. **Incorporate the principle of gender equality into all areas of law by repealing or amending all existing discriminatory legislation, in order to achieve full de jure equality for women in Lesotho, in compliance with the State's international treaty obligations (Latvia);**

113.10. **Incorporate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the national legislation, and take the necessary measures for them to attain work opportunities (Libya);**

113.11. **Consider amending discriminatory provisions and administrative regulations relating to family, marriage, divorce and share of marital property, with the aim to eliminating discrimination against women (Namibia);**

113.12. **Bring its domestic legislation into line with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica);**

113.13. **Take steps to establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Kenya);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

113.14. **Pursue the adoption process of the draft bill on the National Human Rights Commission of 2014 with a view to render it fully operational (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

113.15. **Expedite enactment of planned legislation to establish a Human Rights Commission (Australia);**

113.16. **Conclude the project of creating an independent national human rights commission in line with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);**

113.17. **Finalize efforts to create a National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (France);**

113.18. **Establish a national human rights commission (Gabon);**

113.19. **Take necessary measures to finalize the process of establishing the National Human Rights Commission (Mali);**

113.20. **Step up efforts aimed at promptly establishing an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Mexico);**

113.21. **The National Human Rights Institution be made fully operational and ensure that it functions in conformity with Paris Principles (Morocco);**

113.22. **Continue its efforts towards the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission (Rwanda);**

113.23. **Establish a national human rights institution which is in conformity with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);**

113.24. **Establish a National Human Rights Commission (Spain);**

113.25. **Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Timor Leste);**

113.26. **Continue the ongoing process to operationalize the National Human Rights Commission (Zimbabwe);**

113.27. **Implement and put in place the Human Rights Commission, in line with the Paris Principles (Chile);**

113.28. **Continue efforts on the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (South Africa);**

113.29. **Speed up the process of setting up a national human rights commission, with the support of the international community (Mozambique);**

113.30. **Put in place technical assistance programmes to strengthen the capacity of the Ombudsman (Morocco);**

113.31. **Takes all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the national human rights policy and action plan (Kenya);**

113.32. **Continue its efforts to develop a national policy for human rights and to finalize the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Yemen);**

113.33. **Continue its efforts to implement the adopted National Strategies aiming at providing further protection and promotion for human rights in the country (Sudan);**

113.34. **Continue the reforms to improve the policies and special programmes to strengthen and protect human rights (Kuwait);**

113.35. **Continue to provide and ensure improved and easily accessible service delivery, especially to marginalized sections of the population (Zimbabwe);**

113.36. **Continue to strengthen good governance at all levels to enhance service delivery (Singapore);**

113.37. **Redouble efforts towards the realization of, at least, part of the remaining Millennium Development Goals (Mozambique);**

113.38. **Redouble its efforts to combat practices of corruption in Lesotho (Indonesia);**

113.39. **Continue support for agencies such as the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences, and for the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan (New Zealand);**

113.40. **Combat more effectively corruption and adopt necessary legal measures (Russian Federation);**

113.41. **Continue to actively protect rights of women and children (Russian Federation);**

113.42. **Implement the Maseru Facilitation Declaration and the Maseru Security Accord, and thereby to reestablish the ground for democratic and civil governance in the country, after elections in February 2015 (Sweden);**

113.43. **Respect the provisions of the Maseru Facilitation Declaration and ensure an environment for free, fair and democratic elections (Turkey);**

113.44. **Continue to demonstrate its commitment to democratic rule, rule of law, and accountable governance by holding free, fair and peaceful elections in February 2015 (United States of America);**

113.45. **Pursue the strengthening of its cooperation with treaty bodies, step up its efforts in domesticating international human rights legal instruments by supporting its request to strengthen capacities in the areas which it has set out (Niger);**

113.46. **Seek technical assistance to meet its human rights obligations, including the submission of its overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**

113.47. **Hand in its initial report to the Committee against Torture as soon as possible (Denmark);**

113.48. **Train and prepare public officials responsible for preparing State reports (Gabon);**

113.49. **Submit overdue initial and periodic reports to the various human rights treaty bodies, some of which have been overdue since 1994 (Ghana);**

113.50. **Consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures (Ghana);**

113.51. **Extend a standing invitation to all mandate holders (Latvia);**

113.52. **Accept the visit request by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, in particular with a view to creating necessary institutional capacities to strengthen cooperation with the bodies of the international system for the human rights protection (Mexico);**

113.53. **Further strengthen the understanding of gender equality, in order to eliminate patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes (Slovenia);**

113.54. **Take necessary measures to actively combat violence against women and promote gender equality, in particular by reforming discriminatory legislation against women (France);**

113.55. **Take more effective measures to address cultural practices that foster discrimination against women (Ghana);**

113.56. **Enhance efforts to fight all forms of discrimination against women by ensuring effective implementation of existing legislation (Italy);**

113.57. **Step up the efforts to improve gender equality as well as to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, especially with regard to access to education and employment opportunities (Thailand);**

113.58. **Ensure that birth registration is effectively implemented and enforced by allocating sufficient human and financial resources to the National Identity and Civil Registry Department to promote the effectiveness of birth registration systems and processes (Latvia);**

113.59. **Take necessary measures aimed at verifying alleged human rights violations committed by members of the security services (Egypt);**

113.60. **Continue efforts to combat cases of torture by adopting specific legislation to criminalize torture, by developing training programs for the security forces and by ensuring that perpetrators of these crimes are prosecuted (France);**

113.61. **Implement progressively and effectively the legislations and policies on trafficking in persons (Ethiopia);**

113.62. **Provide legal remedies and assistance for victims of trafficking in persons (Sierra Leone);**

113.63. **Continue the fight against trafficking in human beings by implementing a comprehensive program to combat these practices and support the victims (France);**

113.64. **Enforce all laws that protect children from trafficking and exploitation, and their uses in illegal activities (Libya);**

113.65. **That Lesotho ensures the effective implementation of its human trafficking legislation (Trinidad and Tobago);**

113.66. **Ensure the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of human trafficking as well as to endure necessary assistance to victims (Turkey);**

113.67. **Undertake further steps to prevent gender-based violence and combat preventable maternal mortality and morbidity (New Zealand);**

113.68. **Continue efforts in implementation of the National Action Plan to end Gender Based Violence Against Women (South Africa);**

113.69. **Provide comprehensive protection for women exposed to violence (Turkey);**

113.70. **Prevent and combat domestic violence (Djibouti);**

113.71. **Enact the law on domestic violence in order to overcome the Penal Code's shortcomings in covering domestic violence cases (Turkey);**

113.72. **Intensify efforts to adopt laws and measures to address domestic violence more effectively (Philippines);**

113.73. **Investigate all cases of domestic violence, in collaboration with the civil society engaged in this field and todevelop a comprehensive national strategy to facilitate equal access of girls and women to all levels and fields of education (Italy);**

113.74. **Continue the implementation of all obligations of the CRC, in particular to combat violence against children and forced labour (France);**

113.75. **Take action towards more pervasive measures to prevent violations of the rights of children through, inter alia, training professionals such as teachers, doctors and social workers to identify potential situations of abuse and report them to the authorities (Brazil);**

113.76. **Provide effective institutional mechanisms that duly protect girls against sexual abuses and effectively prevent early and forced marriage (Chile);**

113.77. **Take necessary measures for the improvement of the conditions of prisons and places of detention (Egypt);**

113.78. **Adopt measures to guarantee the respect of judicial guarantees and human rights in detention and police custody (Spain);**

113.79. **Put in place measures that guarantee the integrity and protection of prisoners and detainees, particularly vis-à-vis other prisoners, in the light of cases of rapes that have led to an increase of HIV positive prison population prevalence (Spain);**

113.80. **Increase oversight of labour recruitment agencies licensed in Lesotho, and accelerate legal reforms to combat the worst forms of child labour (United States of America);**

113.81. **Strengthen measures to protect children from the worst forms of labour, and ensure full implementation of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act (Botswana);**

113.82. **Continue strengthening its proper social policies in order to provide greater well-being and living standard to its people, for which international support and cooperation are fundamental (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

113.83. **Strengthen measures to implement the law on the protection and well-being of children, particularly in rural areas, so as to prevent children having to work in the fields or in home in order to meet their needs and those of their families (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

113.84. **Grant comprehensive support to the institute of family (Russian Federation);**

113.85. **Formulate a national disaster risk reduction programme to respond to crises relating to food security (Egypt);**

113.86. **Continue efforts to develop access to water and sanitation and to combat disparities between urban and rural areas (Togo);**

113.87. **Continue its efforts to reduce poverty, especially in fulfilling the rights of vulnerable groups (Indonesia);**

113.88. **Continue this work of alleviating of poverty and developing social economic sphere in the context of realization of national strategic plan in the area of development (Russian Federation);**

113.89. **Develop sustainable economic policies to reduce extreme poverty, food insecurity and unemployment (Senegal);**

113.90. **Strengthen measures to reduce poverty amongst vulnerable groups (Angola);**

113.91. **Continue to prioritize poverty reduction in protection and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights of its people; strengthen the construction of its health system, increase the coverage of service level of the medical care, and put further attention to combating AIDS (China);**

113.92. **Continue efforts to ensure free access to health care throughout the country (Algeria);**

113.93. **Ensure that the new initiatives on health centres reach all districts of the Kingdom (Ethiopia);**

113.94. **Enhance capacity of health centres and health service providers, with a view to improving access to quality health services of people, particularly in the rural areas (Philippines);**

113.95. **Plan to re-establish the National AIDS Commission so as to effectively support programmes and policies to combat HIV/AIDS (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

113.96. **Develop more effective strategies to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS (Togo);**

113.97. **Step up awareness-raising campaigns on effective methods to combat and fight AIDS (Angola);**

113.98. **Further involve civil society actors in awareness-raising campaigns with respect to infectious diseases, in particular HIV (Senegal);**

113.99. **Suitably addresses the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls by increasing its efforts to further reduce the number of women and girls affected by the HIV pandemic and to increase prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and AIDS (Namibia);**

113.100. **Implement foreseen measures to reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS by at least 15 per cent (Cuba);**

113.101. **Take action at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 and consider applying the "Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age", A/HRC/27/31 (Ireland);**

113.102. **Continue to strengthen the provision of health-care services to its people, particularly women and children (Singapore);**

113.103. **That Lesotho seeks to increase access to affordable contraceptive methods and antiretroviral treatment and to promote education on sexual and reproductive health (Trinidad and Tobago);**

113.104. **Implement policies and plans aimed at improving maternal and child health, and ensure equitable access to health services to effectively address maternal and infant mortality (Botswana);**

113.105. **Take necessary measures to guarantee all children the right to education (Algeria);**

113.106. **Deploy further efforts to prevent child labour and to avoid the drop out from school of minors, with particular reference to the herd boys, ensuring a full implementation of the Education Act of 2010 (Italy);**

113.107. **Put in place awareness campaigns to sensitize local communities on the importance of education for both boys and girls alike (Latvia);**

113.108. **Include human rights education in the school curriculum and the necessary assistance and capacity-building be provided to Lesotho in this regard (Mauritius);**

113.109. **Ensure access to education of all children, including those in hard-to-reach areas, by increasing investments in education infrastructure and training of educators and pursuing all possible avenues for international cooperation (Philippines);**

113.110. **Take the appropriate measures to address the disadvantage situation of girls concerning access to education, as well as reports on sexual violence and abuses committed in schools (Portugal);**

113.111. **Allocate more resources to improve educational infrastructure as well as to take the necessary steps to ensure that members of the local communities, especially those living in the rural areas, realize the importance of education for both boys and girls (Thailand);**

113.112. **Ensure an inclusive education system, in order to allow all children to attend classes, in particular pregnant girls (Timor Leste);**

113.113. **That Lesotho takes steps to continue working on its national nutrition policy (Trinidad and Tobago);**

113.114. **Continue consolidating social protection programmes undertaken in favour of persons with disabilities (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

113.115. **Develop and adopt legal and administrative measures aimed at making its education premises accessible and, on the other hand, at training teachers, with a view to guaranteeing full access to education to people with disabilities (Argentina);**

113.116. **Take necessary measures aimed at combating sexual exploitation of migrant women and children, especially young girls (Egypt);**

113.117. **Fully implement the National Strategic Development Plan aimed at reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development, including through the enactment of the draft National Policy on Social Development (South Africa);**

113.118. **Define and deploy the necessary resources, particularly human, legislative and financial resources, in order to effectively implement the Lesotho Government's ambitious policy in the field of economic and social rights, particularly with respect to health care and education (Senegal);**

113.119. **Seek financial assistance for mitigation and adaption activities to address the impact of climate change (Sierra Leone);**

113.120. **That a long-term sustainable policy approach be adopted to respond to crises such as climate change and food security (Trinidad and Tobago);**

113.121. **Continue undertaking measures to reduce environmental degradation as an essential requirement to reduce the impact of poverty (Cuba).**

114. **The following recommendations will be examined by Lesotho and responses will be provided in due time, but no later than the 29th session of the Human Rights Council, to be held from 15 June to 3 July 2015, and will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Human Rights Council at that session:**

114.1. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Montenegro);**

114.2. **Intensify efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Denmark);**

114.3. **Sign and ratify OP-CAT as recommended by Spain in 2010 (Spain);**

114.4. **Ratify OP-CAT (Togo);**

114.5. **Accede to OP-CAT (Chile);**

114.6. **Ratify OP-CAT and simultaneously strengthen investigations of complaints of this practice (Costa Rica);**

114.7. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.8. **Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, fully implement the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, and ensure effective law enforcement (Germany);**

114.9. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture; and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

114.10. **Sign and ratify OP-ICESCR, which was recommended by the Spanish delegation in the first cycle (Spain);**

114.11. **Ratify OP-ICESCR (Uruguay);**

114.12. **Accede to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity without reservations, and implement it in domestic legislation (Uruguay);**

114.13. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Benin);**

114.14. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Benin);**

114.15. **Adopt legislative measures to check trafficking in women and girls (Ghana);**

114.16. **Take steps to decriminalize defamation and review its media-related laws including the Printing and Publishing Act of 1967 (Ghana);**

114.17. **Strengthen at the constitutional level and in a specific manner, the provisions that prohibit discrimination against women (Chile);**

114.18. **Review and update laws that could lead to self-censorship, such as the Sedition Proclamation and the Internal Security (General) Act, to ensure compliance with international human rights obligations (Canada);**

114.19. **Consider developing Human Rights Indicators as suggested by the OHCHR) as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of national human rights policies (Portugal);**

114.20. **Take measures to ensure the universal registration of births, including through the simplification of necessary requirements and the removal of costs (Mexico);**

114.21. **Implement the July 2014 national anti-trafficking action plan and enact implementing regulations for the 2011 anti-trafficking act, including by making the changes necessary to ensure that trafficking cases are prosecuted in the magistrate courts, not just the high court (United States of America);**

114.22. **Endeavour to investigate all cases of gender violence, punish the perpetrators and compensate the victims (Ghana);**

114.23. **Offer comprehensive sexuality education and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services, including legal and safe abortion (Slovenia);**

114.24. **Meet the target of allocating 15 per cent of Government spending to health, in accordance with the Abuja Declaration (Slovenia).**

115. **The following recommendations do not enjoy the support of Lesotho and will thus be noted:**

115.1. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP 2) (Italy);**

115.2. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Timor Leste);**

115.3. **Ratify ICCPR-OP 2, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);**

115.4. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on abolishing the death penalty (Portugal);**

115.5. **Consider lifting the reservation to article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Rwanda);**

115.6. **Lift the reservation on article 2 of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; review and repeal all sections of the Constitution and other remaining discriminatory provisions that allow discrimination based on gender; and include in the Constitution, and/or other appropriate legislation, prohibition of both direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of gender (Ireland);**

115.7. **Repeal legislation criminalizing male homosexuality, and introduce targeted policies to eradicate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Slovenia);**

115.8. **Repeal all provisions of law criminalizing sexual activity between consenting adults (Australia);**

115.9. **Repeal legislation criminalizing consensual same-sex relations between adults (Canada);**

115.10. **Eliminate from national legislation the death penalty (Chile);**

115.11. **Further promote and enforce the principle of non-discrimination, particularly by fully suspending its reservation to article 2 of the CEDAW Conventionand ending discrimination of women in the fields of property and inheritance law (Germany);**

115.12. **Ensure full gender equality in marriage and family relations, including by expressly prohibiting gender-based discrimination and repealing remaining discriminatory provisions (Slovenia);**

115.13. **Adopt norms that guarantee LGBTI people the full enjoyment of their rights on an equal footing, which simultaneously safeguard their non-criminalization and stigmatization (Argentina);**

115.14. **Enact measures to combat discrimination of LGBTI people and to ensure them equal access to public services such as health care and education (Netherlands);**

115.15. **Make progress towards the protection of LGBTI people, by creating the conditions allowing them to access to basic services in the fields of health, work and religious activities, and in addition by eliminating definitely from the Criminal Code sodomy as a crime (Chile);**

115.16. **Abolish the death penalty (Djibouti; France; Sweden);**

115.17. **Consider abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);**

115.18. **Adopt necessary measures to formalize the establishment of a moratorium on the executions of the death penalty as well as the ratification of ICCPR-OP 2 (Spain);**

115.19. **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Australia);**

115.20. **Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty for all crimes (Uruguay);**

115.21. **Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and ensure rigorous compliance in all death penalty cases with international standards for trials (Germany);**

115.22. **Introduce a moratorium on the use of death penalty and work towards its abolition, including through ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand);**

115.23. **Establish an immediate official moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing it and to adhering to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Montenegro);**

115.24. **Consider taking all necessary steps to introduce a de jure moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty (Italy).**

116. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Lesotho was headed by His Excellency Advocate Haae Phoofolo, Hon. Minister, Ministry of Law, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Tebello Thanbane Principal Secretary, Ministry of Law;
- Mrs. Mathoriso Monaheng Deputy Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Polo Chabane-Moloi Chief Legal Officer, Ministry of Law;
- Mr. Ntsime Jafeta Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Geneva;
- Mrs. Malebona Takalimane Senior Legal Officer, Ministry of Justice;
- Mrs. Nthabiseng Lelisa Legal Officer, Ministry of Law;
- Mrs. Bokang Lethunya Legal Officer, Ministry of Law.